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Stray Notes.

We are sure our patrons will appreciate our efforts this month, in providing for them so many original designs of such an excellent character as the ones we publish in the present issue. We particularly call attention to the design of a square bay window, shown on Plate 45. It is simple, plain and effective ; but its best feature rests in the fact that it is to be built of domestic wood and finished in oil. For years past woodwork has been so plastered over with paint, and joiners and house-finishers have been so driven and hurried, that slip-shod work of the most infamous kind, with joints full of putty or glue and sawdust, and plane marks and scratches meandering all over it like rivers, or mountain ranges on a map, all of which are covered or hidden to a certain extent by a daub of paint, has become the rule, and one rarely finds good work under paint, unless the work was originally intended to be finished in oil.

Dishonest work does not exist from lack of skill in our mechanics, or from a want of knowledge of its existence by the contractors or builders, but simply because greed is at the bottom of it all ; greed, first in the proprietor, who wishes his work done for less money than it is possible ; greed in the contractor, who, through the efforts of unscrupulous competition, is obliged to grind down his men to starvation wages in order to make for himself the usual profits : and the employee, the man who does the real work, has no heart in what he does, his skill is wasted or unappreciated, and he is driven by surrounding circumstances to get through as much work as possible in a given time, with the least possible effort of hand or head.

If paint, particularly for inside work, was tabooed altogether, slop work in joinery and inside finishings in wood, would soon disappear and honest substantial work would take its place.

We have had so great a demand for the cheap drawings advertised in our last issue, that most of the numbers mentioned were sold out by the middle of the month. We have a few odd numbers left which are advertised in another column.

If "Ah Paradice," of San Francisco, will forward his name and address to this office, we shall be pleased to communicate with him on the matter mentioned in his letter of the 21st April.

We have received a number of letters to which no names were attached, some of them containing very useful items, but which we could make no use of for lack of the name of the writer. It is simply a waste of time, paper, and postage, to send unsigned communications to this office.

The Sectorian System of Hand-Railing.

SIXTH PAPER.

Plate 42, section 1, exhibits a plan of stairs with two platform landings and two quadrant wreaths, with two flyers intervening. Where it is desirable to avoid a large cylinder, and the width too great for the length of the steps, this plate shows the best method of overcoming the difficulty. It will be observed that by the use of the quadrant wreaths, the size laid down, which is just the rise of one step each, the rail is made straight from bottom to top, each wreath being the rise of one step. Fig. 1 shows this.

Fig. 2 shows the wreath piece with spring and plumb bevel, giving the twist of rail, and by reversing, will give both pieces of wreath.

Fig. 3 is the elevation, showing the length of wreaths and straight rail with skirting facia.

The newel is placed where it is, to show its relation to the rail, only the centre line being used to show the ramp of rail. The dotted lines show the relation of the plan to the elevation.

Section 2 exhibits a plan for a circular stairs in very common use, with a new mode of framing for the same. I have used it in my practice, and found it to be the strongest and at the same time the most simple to construct of any other kind, and hence I have no hesitation to recommend it.

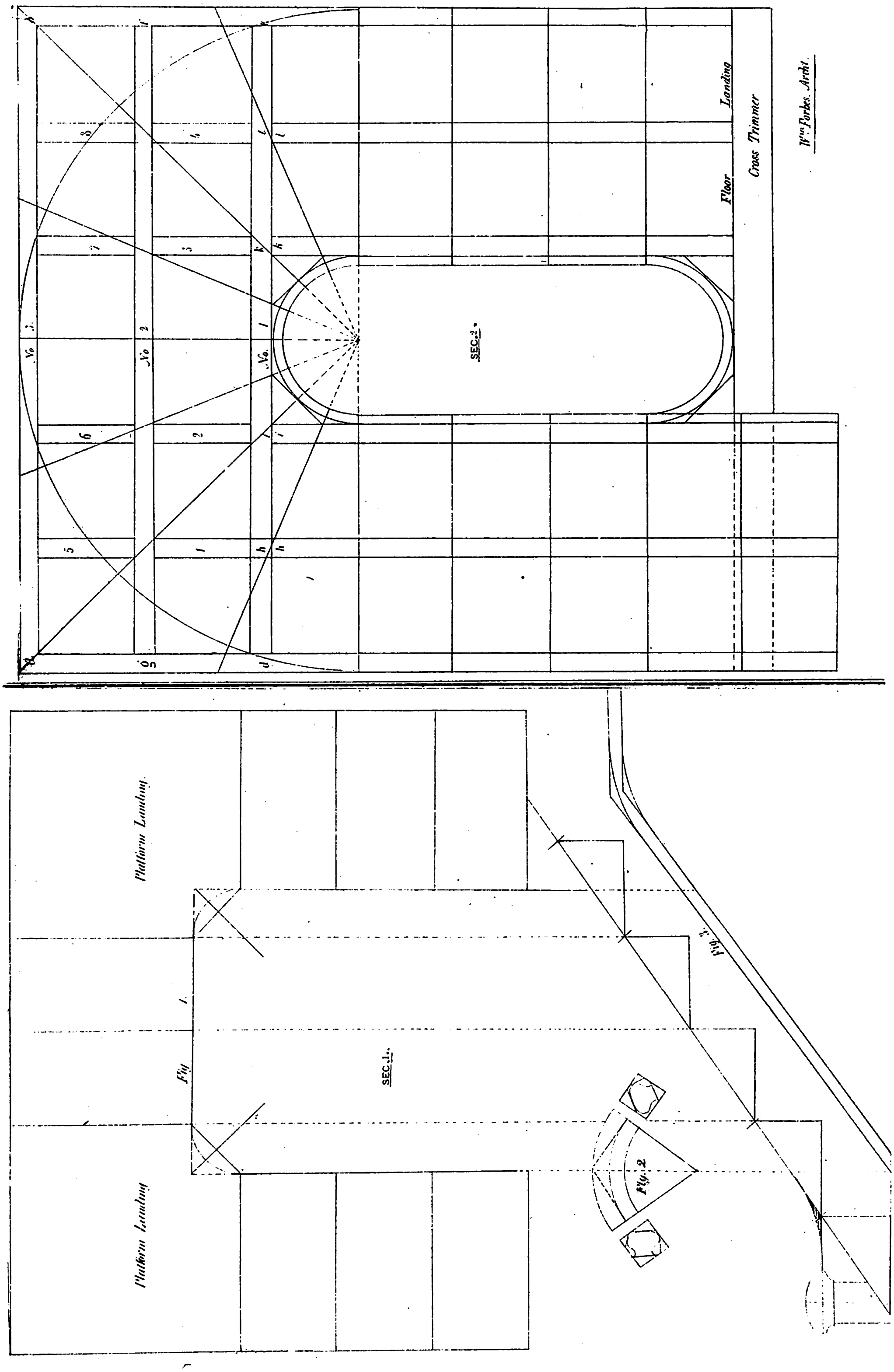
The horse pieces for these stairs will be shown, laid out, figured, and fully described, next month.

Practical Carpentry.

Plate 43. *Fig.* 1.—*To draw the sections of a cone made by a line cutting both its sides.*

Let A D B be the vertical projection of the cone, A C B the horizontal projection of half its base, and E F the line of section. From the points E and F, let fall on A B the perpendiculars E G, F H ; and on G H describe the semicircle G 4 H, which is the horizontal projection of half of the section. To find the vertical section—Divide the semicircle G 4 H into any number of equal parts, 1 2 3 4, etc. ; and through these divisions draw lines 1 5 K, 2 6 *l*, 3 7 *m*, 4 8 *n*, perpendicular to the line A B, and meeting the section line E F in the points *k l m*, etc. Through *k l m*, etc., draw *k t*, *l u*, *m v*, *n w*, perpendicular to E F, and make them respectively equal to the corresponding ordinates, 5 1, 6 2, 73, etc., of the semicircle G 4 H, and points will be obtained

PLATE 42



THE SECTORIAN SYSTEM OF HAND-RAILING